

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 L-03 USIA-06 SP-02
IOE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W
-----161935Z 023998 /40

P R 161909Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3948
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08088

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, UK
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE:
DISCUSSION WITH UK EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 102600

1. EMBASSY E/C MIN ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE MET WITH J. COATES, UK EMPLOYER DELEGATE, AND T. HEALY, DEPUTY UK EMPLOYER DELEGATE, MAY 15 IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SCHEDULED VISITS CONCERNING THE CRISIS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

2. E/C MIN RECALLED THE BASIC REASONS WHICH LED TO THE
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USG LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, NOTED SOME OF THE PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE SINCE ITS DISPATCH, AND EMPHASIZED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN TERMS OF THE ULTIMATE US DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP. HE ALSO SOUGHT SUPPORT ON THE CRITICAL ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE (REFTEL).

3. MR. COATES SAID HE WAS "ENTIRELY SYMPATHETIC" WITH THE PRESENTATION BUT HE NEVERTHELESS WANTED TO STRESS HIS VIEW THAT "IT WOULD BE A DREADFUL ERROR IF THE US WERE TO WITHDRAW." HE ADDED THAT DESPITE "US FRUSTRATION AND THE UNREASONABLE ATTITUDE OF OUR OPPONENTS" THE ILO STILL REMAINS A HIGHLY WORTHWHILE ORGANIZATION. "WITHDRAWAL", HE SAID, "WOULD HARM OUR ABILITY TO ARGUE BACK AND WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR THE RUSSIANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE . . . IT COULD ALSO MEAN THAT WITHIN ONE OR TWO YEARS, THE ILO WOULD BE DISMEMBERED." HE AND HIS DELEGATION WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO HELP ON THE SPECIFIC ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, WHICH HE SAID "WERE DEVILISHLY DIFFICULT" AND "WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT OUR OPPONENTS DID." HE DECLARED: "IF THE RUSSIANS WERE TO STOKE THE FIRES, IT WOULD MAKE A MAJOR DIFFERENCE, ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT A US WITHDRAWAL."

4. THE ISRAELI ISSUE - COATES SAID HE IS WORRIED THAT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY THE ARABS AND THEIR ALLIES TO TRY AGAIN TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO RAM THROUGH ANOTHER RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE SIMILAR TO THE 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION. COATES WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANY "COMPROMISE" POSSIBLE ON THIS ISSUE AND WE SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT MACHINERY ALREADY EXISTS WITHIN THE ILO FRAMEWORK TO DEAL WITH ALLEGED

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VIOLATIONS OF THIS KIND.

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 L-03 USIA-06 SP-02

IOE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W

-----161935Z 024207 /50

P R 161909Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3949

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08088

5. ARTICLE 17 - COATES SAID HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE US EFFORT TO AMEND ARTICLE 17, BUT HE WAS A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT THE "SMALL PRINT" IN OUR PROPOSAL. HE BELIEVES THAT USG DELEGATE DAN HOROWITZ IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE AN AMENDMENT WHICH IS TOO INFLEXIBLE, TOO "AIRTIGHT" AND MIGHT RESULT IN STIFLING THE RESOLUTION PROCESS. THERE WOULD BE, HE ADDED, FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE IN GENEVA IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER SOME FLEXIBILITY COULD BE ADDED TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENT.

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6. EQUAL TREATMENT IN APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS - COATES WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE USG POSITION, BUT HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS HAD "DONE PRETTY WELL." STRUCTURE - WHILE HE AND THE CBI ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE POSITION OF THE US AND UK EMPLOYERS SHOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED, HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE IS AFRAID, HE ADDED, THAT WHILE "WE MIGHT GET THROUGH THIS PERIOD, BY 1978 THE PRESSURE FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE MIGHT BECOME IRRESISTIBLE. THE MORRIS CANDIDATURE - COATES FULLY SUPPORTS THE MORRIS CANDIDACY, ADDING THAT "OUTSTANDING QUALITY" SHOULD TAKE PREFERENCE OVER THE "TERM SYSTEM."

7. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ON THE OTHER MEETINGS
WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW (MAY 17).

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Message Attributes

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